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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

TRAN, HENRY N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/468,581

Applicant(s)

MINAMI ET AL.

Examiner

HENRY N. TRAN

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TD

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2002.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10,13-15 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-10,13-15 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 December 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the applicant's amendment filed 03/08/02. The amendments to the claims and applicant's remarks were considered, with the results set forth as following.

1. Claims 3-10, 13-15, and 17-24 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. **Claims 3, 9, 13, and 17-18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507).
4. **Regarding claim 3**, Gouko teaches a multi-monitor (a personal computer having a plurality of display panels (see col. 1, lines 5-6), comprising: a first display device **2** (Gouko says the main panel 2 as a primary display panel) having a display screen **2a** (a display surface 2a); a second display device **3** (Gouko says the sub panel 3 as a secondary display panel) having a display screen smaller than the first display device **2** (see FIG. 1; col. 3, lines 23-28, and line 37); and a supporting mechanism **6, 7, and 9** (a pinion 6, a rack 7, and hinge mechanism 9) which is mountable on an outside portion of the first display device **2**, and support the second display device **3** rotatably about a first axis **9a** and a second axis **9b** intersection the first axis (Gouko says that the hinge mechanism 9 includes two axes 9a and 9b; and the sub panel 3 is rotatable around the first axis 9a as depicted by a circular 10a, and is rotatable around the second axis as

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depicted by a circular broken line 10b) (see FIGS. 2, 4 and 5; abstract; col. 3, lines 41-46; and col. 4, lines 15-26); wherein, the first axis **9a** is parallel with a horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the first display device **2**, and the second axis **9b** is parallel with a vertical direction of the display screen **2a** of the first display device **2** (see references cited above); and wherein, the supporting mechanism **6**, **7**, and **9** (a pinion **6**, a rack **7**, and hinge mechanism **9**) includes: a first support member **9** (a hinge mechanism **9**) which supports the second display device **3** rotatably about the first and the second axes **9a** and **9b** (see references cited above); and a second support member **6** and **7** (a pinion **6** and a rack **7**) mountable on an outside portion 2b (a back surface 2b) of the first display device **2**, and supports the first support member **9** slidably in parallel with the horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the first display device **2** (Gouko shows the pinion **6** and the rack **7** are mounted in the back portion 2b of the first display device **2**; the combination of the pinion **6** and the rack **7** supports the hinge mechanism **9**, which is mounted to the second display device **3**, slidably in parallel with the horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the first display device **2**; Gouko says the sub panel is slid horizontally, as depicted by a straight line having arrows in both ends thereof, into the space in the rear of the first display device **2**) (see FIGS. 2 and 4; and col. 3, lines 39-46; and col. 4, lines 15-26).

5. **Regarding claim 9**, Gouko also teaches the multi-monitor further comprising one more display device **4** (a secondary display panel **4**) having a display screen smaller than that of the first display device (see FIG. 5, which shows the display screens of display devices **3** and **4**, each display screen is one half of the display screen **2a** of the first display device **2**; also, col. 2, lines 1-4; and col. 3, lines 25-27). Claim 9 is dependent upon claim 3, and is rejected on the same reasons set forth in claim 3, and by the reasons noted above.

6. **Regarding claim 13**, which is similar to claim 3, Gouko teaches an auxiliary monitor (a personal computer having a plurality of display panels (see col. 1, lines 5-6), comprising: a main body **3** having a display screen (Gouko calls a secondary display device or the sub panel 3 having a display screen); and a supporting mechanism **6, 7, and 9** (a pinion 6, a rack 7, and hinge mechanism 9) adapted to be mountable on an outside portion of a mother monitor **2** having a display screen **2a** larger than that of the main body (FIGS. 1 and 5, show that the display screen 2a of the mother monitor 2 is larger than the display screen of the main body 3), and supports the main body **3** rotatably about the first axis **9a** and the second axis **9b** intersecting the first axis (Gouko says that the hinge mechanism 9 includes two axes 9a and 9b; and the sub panel 3 is rotatable around the first axis 9a as depicted by a circular line 10a, and is rotatable around the second axis 9b as depicted by a circular broken line 10b) (See the above cited references; also, FIGS. 2, 4 ; col. 3, lines 23-28, and line 37, lines 41-46; and col. 4, lines 15-26); wherein, the first axis **9a** is parallel with a horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the mother monitor **2**, and the second axis **9b** is parallel with a vertical direction of the display screen **2a** of the mother monitor **2** (see references cited above); and wherein, the supporting mechanism **6, 7, and 9** (a pinion 6, a rack 7, and hinge mechanism 9) includes: a first support member **9** (a hinge mechanism 9) which supports the main body **3** rotatably about the first and the second axes **9a** and **9b** (see references cited above); and a second support member **6 and 7** (a pinion 6 and a rack 7) mountable on an outside portion **2b** (a back surface 2b) of the mother monitor **2**, and supports the first support member **9** slidably in parallel with the horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the mother monitor **2** (Gouko shows the pinion 6 and the rack 7 are mounted in the back portion 2b of the mother monitor 2; the combination of the pinion 6 and the rack 7 supports the

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hinge mechanism 9, which is mounted to the main body 3, slidably in parallel with the horizontal direction of the display screen 2a of the mother monitor 2; Gouko says the sub panel 3 is slid horizontally, as depicted by a straight line having arrows in both ends thereof, into the space in the rear of the mother monitor 2) (see FIGS. 2 and 4; and col. 3, lines 39-46; and col. 4, lines 15-26).

Note: The examiner has led to recognized that the claim 13 is similar to claim 3, which is rephrased to claim an auxiliary monitor instead of a multi-monitor, a main body having a display screen instead of the second display device having a display screen, a mother monitor having a display screen instead of the first display device having a display screen, and the display screen of the mother monitor is larger than that of the main body (which is more specific than that of claim 1).

7. **Regarding claim 17**, Gouko teaches a monitor supporter 6, 7, and 9 (a pinion 6, a rack 7, and hinge mechanism 9) comprising: a first support member 7 and 9 (a rack 7 and a hinge mechanism 9) which supports an auxiliary display device 3 (a secondary display device or a sub panel 3) rotatably about the first and the second axes 9a and 9b (see references cited above); and a second support member 6 (a pinion 6) which is mountable on an outside portion 2b (a back surface 2b) of the mother display device 2 (a primary display device or a main panel 2) having a larger display screen 2a (a display surface 2a) than that of the auxiliary display device 3 (see FIG. 5, which shows the display device 3 having a display screen which is one-half of the display screen 2a of the first display device 2; also, col. 3, lines 25-27) and supports the first support member 7 and 9 (See FIG. 4); wherein, the first support member 7 and 9 slidably on the second support member 6 (FIG. 4 shows the pinion 6 is mounted in the back portion 2b of the

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mother display device 2; and the first support member 7 and 9 is slidable on the second support member 6).

8. **Regarding claim 18**, Gouko further teaches that the first axis **9a** is parallel with a horizontal direction of the display screen **2a** of the mother display device **2**, and the second axis **9b** is parallel with a vertical direction of the display screen **2a** of the mother display device **2** (See the rotation directions depicted as 10a and 10b in FIG. 4; wherein 10a is the rotation direction parallel with the first axis 9a which is a horizontal direction of the display screen 2a of the mother display device 2, and 10b is the rotation direction parallel with the second axis 9b which is a vertical direction of the display screen 2a of the mother display device 2). Claim 18 is dependent upon claim 17, and is rejected on the same reasons set forth in claim 17, and by the reasons noted above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

10. **Claims 4, 6, and 14** stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507) in view of Crossland et al (U.S. Patent 4,720,781) as discussed in the last Office action.

11. **Claims 10, 15, and 19** stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507) in view of Fowler et al (U.S. Patent 6,302,612, referred to as "Fowler") as discussed in the last Office action.

12. **Claims 7 and 8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507) in view of Crossland et al (U.S. Patent 4,720,781), (referred to as

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“Gouko-Crossland”) as applied to claims 1, 4, 6 above, and further in view of Fowler (U.S. Patent 6,302,612) as discussed in the last Office action.

13. **Claim 5** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507) in view of Crossland et al (U.S. Patent 4,720,781) (hereinafter referred to as “Gouko-Crossland”), and further in view of Register (U.S. Patent 5,590,021) as discussed in the last Office action.

14. **Claims 20-24** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gouko (U.S. Patent 6,222,507) in view of Milner et al (U.S. Patent 6,339,410, hereinafter referred to as “Milner”).

15. Regarding claims 20-22, Gouko teaches generally all (as discussed in claims 3 and 9) except for the supporting mechanism is detachably mountable on the first display device, and the second support member is adapted to be mounted on at least two surfaces of the outside portion of the mother monitor. Milner teaches a multi-monitor, comprising a supporting mechanism including a vertically adjustable slide mounting system 36 detachably mounted on two surfaces of the monitor 42 for supporting the other monitor 32 (see FIGS. 1 and 3; and col. 6, lines 60-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the teachings as taught by Milner as noted above in the Gouko device because this would provide a supporting mechanism which conveniently and effectively attach display monitors for improving the operation efficiency of the multi-monitor display system. Claims 20-22 are dependent upon claims 3, and are rejected on the same reasons set forth in claim 3, and by the rationale discussed above.

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16. Regarding claims 23 and 24, which are dependent upon claims 13 and 17, respectively, are similar to claim 20, and are rejected on the same basis set forth in claim 13, 17, and 20.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant argues that applicant's invention provides a multi-monitor system having a supporting mechanism which is mountable on an outside portion of the first display device; whereas, the prior art, the Gouko's invention does not disclose a supporting mechanism as claimed because Gouko's rack 7 is mounted on an inside portion of the display device 2 (see the amendment, page 6). This argument is not persuasive because Gouko's rack 7 is integrally provided on the second display device 3 (see FIGS 2-4; col. 2, lines 8-9; and col. 3, lines 40-46), which is not on an inside portion of the display device 2 as argued.

Conclusion

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HENRY N. TRAN whose telephone number is (703) 308-8410. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri from 8:00AM - 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHARD A. HJERPE, can be reached at (703) 305-4709.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for technology Center 2600 only)

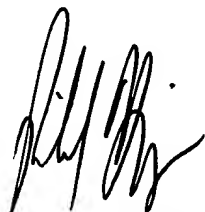
Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office Whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

HENRY N. TRAN *HT*

Examiner
Art Unit 2674

hnt
August 20, 2002


RICHARD HJERPE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600